

Minutes September 11 , 2008 Facilitation of Community Choices Committee

The Committee met in the Town Room, Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 9:03

Members Present: Stan Gawle, Gerald Jolly, Alison Donta- Venman, Martha Hanner and Isaac Ben-Ezra . Katherine Vorwerk- Feldman, Bob Saul, Irvin Rhodes and Richard Spurgin

Members Absent: Joan Golowich

Others Present: Andy Churchill, John Musante and Andy Steinberg.

Minutes of Sept 5 ,2008 On a motion by Jerry Jolly and a second by Isaac Ben -Ezra, the minutes of September 5,2008 were approved as submitted.

Website: The website is up and running. Alison suggested that a generic e-mail be added for the co-chairs as - non town contacts in addition to John Musante. Martha Hanner agreed to look into the best way to develop that. Alison also raised who would be the gate keeper for the data portion of the website and Martha Hanner responded for the time being she would assume that role.

Presentation and Narrative: Alison and Bob gave an hour and a half slide and narrative presentation. Feedback was given on the order of slides and the length of the narrative.

There was general agreement that the presentation was too long and that many of the textual slides should be allowed to speak for themselves rather than be narrated. It was further agreed that some slides cut from the original presentation should be returned to the shortened version.

Other issues raised were inflation; water, sewer and excise taxes being acknowledged; and the inclusion of average new growth with allowable 2.5% increases to reflect a 4% yearly growth in revenues.

A new presentation would be given next week.

FAQ: Richard Spurgin agreed to do the question and answer portion of the web site.

Tasks to be done: The following tasks were given to members:

1. Town Meeting Coordinating Committee would be contacted by Isaac Ben-Ezra to discuss how they could help in disseminating materials to Town Meeting Members and possibly schedule presentation event. Larger presentation will be sent to all Town Meeting Members
2. Co-ordination of 3-5 presentation meetings at the schools – Irvin Rhodes
3. Jerry Jolly will contact the Chamber of Commerce and will direct the physical set –up for the October 2nd presentation
4. Isaac Ben-Ezra will contact the Republican Town Committee and the Green Party; Andy Steinberg will contact the Democratic Town Committee.
5. Kathy Vorwerk-Feldman will be responsible for the library display with assistance from others.
6. Bob Saul will be the newspaper contact
7. Website should include language that invites other community groups to contact us for presentations.
8. Martha Hanner will contact the Amherst Club.
9. John Musante will contact the Rotary Club.
10. Candidates should receive long version of presentation prior to October 29th. They should also be asked to fill out final questionnaire and have it published in the Bulletin.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40